

Date: 08/07/2025
Our ref: 01/FOI/25/015060/E

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NO: 01/FOI/25/015060/E

I write in connection with your request for information dated 07/07/2025, received by Greater Manchester Police (GMP) for the following information:

I am submitting a request under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. I am seeking data about domestic violence allegations involving migrant spouses and their British or settled partners.

Specifically, I would like to know:

1. Between 2015 and 2025, (or, if data over that period is not available, then for the last 5 years only) how many British citizens or individuals with settled status (Indefinite Leave to Remain) were:

- * Arrested following an allegation of domestic violence,***
- * Made by their spouse or partner who had recently entered the UK on a spouse visa or family visa (i.e. someone they had sponsored to come to the UK)?***

2. Of those arrests, how many cases were:

- * Closed with "No Further Action" (NFA) by police or the Crown Prosecution Service?***

3. Does your force record or flag cases where:

- * The complainant (accuser) was on a spouse or family visa, and***
- * Later applied to remain in the UK under the Domestic Violence Concession (DV route)?***

The reason for this request is because I have come across many cases in which British or settled sponsors were falsely accused of domestic violence, often shortly after their partner arrived in the UK. In these situations, it appears that the Domestic Violence Immigration Route is being misused by some individuals as a strategy to remain in the country.

I am trying to better understand how often such cases occur, and whether police forces are able to track this specific pattern - where a UK-based sponsor is arrested but no charges follow, while the accuser proceeds to seek immigration relief.

Result of Searches

GMP cannot confirm if it holds all the information that you have requested without conducting a thorough search on your behalf.

There is no way of identifying (i.e. no flags/ markers) if a victim of any crime is a migrant. Similarly, we would be unable to identify if their spouse had settled status. Without this information we would not be able to address the other parts of the request. A manual trawl of the substantial records may give us the volumes for question 1. However, it would not necessarily capture everything as it is somewhat dependant what has been manually entered on the incident/ crime log. This manual search would need to be done first to see if we hold this data. If we do, then we can address the remaining questions to see what information we hold if any. Given the time frame and the number of logs that will fall into this review, we would be unable to complete this request in the statutory time of 18hrs or less.

If one part of the request engages a Section 12 response, the whole request will engage a Section 12 response. The reason being is locating, retrieving and extracting any further information would only add to the already exceeded time obligations and so no other searches have been completed at this stage.

Therefore, as per section 12(2) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the cost of searching for the information is above the amount to which we are legally required to respond i.e. the cost of locating the information exceeds the 'appropriate level' as stated in the Freedom of Information (Fees and Appropriate Limit) Regulations 2004.

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, this letter acts as a Refusal Notice.

In this instance, Greater Manchester Police will be unable to provide advice for you to reduce the request in order for the force to keep this within the fees limit in accordance with Section 16(1), the duty to provide advice and assistance, of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.